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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/022,849	12/20/2001	Yasuhiko Tomikawa	HYAE : 129	1513

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STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP
1330 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20036

EXAMINER

YENKE, BRIAN P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2622

DATE MAILED: 07/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/022,849

Applicant(s)

TOMIKAWA ET AL.

Examiner

BRIAN P. YENKE

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on RCE 07 Jun 06/Amend 06 Apr 06.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 4 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5,6,10 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7-9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 06 Apr 06 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 09 Jan 06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's Arguments

a) Applicant states that Rumreich is silent as to whether either of the selected or unselected signals ever has a null value. Further, Rumreich never discloses clamping either a selected or non-selected signal when that signal has a null value. Thus Rumreich does not disclose "holding a voltage value of an input chroma signal within a period during which the input chroma signal has a null value".

b) Applicant states that Rumreich cannot reduce variations in the DC level at a time when the input chroma signal and the OSD signal are switched.

Examiner's Response

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- a) The examiner disagrees. Rumreich discloses that the selected signals are level high (i.e. no null value) and the unselected signal are low level (i.e. null = yes) (col 4, line 33-36), where Rumreich discloses clamping both selected (no null value) or non-selected signals (null value). Rumreich discloses holding a voltage value for both selected/non-selected video signals.
- b) The examiner disagrees. As stated in the rejection, Rumreich discloses holding/clamping when the unselected video input is subsequently selected for processing, the inventive clamping arrangement will be able to change from unselected to selected mode while keeping the clamped video signal with the DC level limits of the PIP processing channel (col 6, line 46-59. Thus a selected (non-null video signal) can be clamped to the DC reference level derived from the output of the processing channel and an unselected signal can be clamped to the predetermined DC reference level. Rumreich discloses that the DC level of the switched signals is increased/decreased in order to avoid undesirable image brightness variations.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 5-6 and 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rumreich, US 5,841,488.

In considering claiming 1-3,

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a) the claimed a voltage holding means for holding a voltage value within a period during which an input chroma signal is null...is met by clamping circuits 100 and 200 (Fig 1) where in the event that a signal is not selected (not present, i.e. null) given that the user can optionally display both (PIP) or only one of the received signals, the signal which is unselected (null) is clamped/held at a predetermined DC reference level (col 2, line 23-33).

b) the claimed an output switch...is met by clamping circuits 100 and 200, where for instance in the circuit 100, in the non-selected mode (null) the output of comparator 120 is coupled to switch 150 via switch 140, where comparator 120 compares the voltage at the input and opens/closes switch 140/150 based upon the CLAMP REF signal voltage (col 4, line 59 to col 5, line 17). It should be noted that the received composite signals include luminance/chrominance information. Regarding the reducing variations in the DC level when switching...Rumreich specifically discloses that the clamping circuits 100 and 200 utilize capacitors C1 and C2 respectively, to reduce variations in the DC level when switching between signals (including a OSD/PIP signals and a selected (i.e. the claimed chroma signal) signal.

In considering claims 5-6,

The claimed the voltage holding means has a capacitor is met where clamps 100 and 200 utilize the input terminal capacitors 101 and 202, respectively.

Rumreich also discloses that when the

video signal contains both luminance/chrominance information, the output terminal 102 of capacitor C1 may be coupled to comparator 120 via an optional low pass filter (LPF), where the LPF would comprise a series resistor and shunt capacitor (col 5, line 50-60).

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In considering claims 10-11,

The claimed the voltage holding means holds the voltage value during a horizontal sync period (claim 10) and during a vertical sync period (claim 11) is met where the clamping circuits clamp the video signals during the sync tips/pulses of the video signal.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claim 4 is allowed.

Claims 7-9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian Yenke whose telephone number is (571)272-7359. The examiner work schedule is Monday-Thursday, 0730-1830 hrs.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Supervisor, David L. Ometz, can be reached at (571)272-7593.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

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or faxed to:

(571)-273-8300

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is

(703)305-HELP.

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(FAX) 703-305-7786

(TDD) 703-305-7785

An automated message system is available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day providing informational responses to frequently asked questions and the ability to order certain documents. Customer service representatives are available to answer questions, send materials or connect customers with other offices of the USPTO from 8:30 a.m. - 8:00p.m. EST/EDT, Monday-Friday excluding federal holidays.

For other technical patent information needs, the Patent Assistance Center can be reached through customer service representatives at the above numbers, Monday through Friday (except federal holidays) from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST/EDT.

The Patent Electronic Business Center (EBC) allows USPTO customers to retrieve data, check the status of pending actions, and submit information and

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applications. The tools currently available in the Patent EBC are Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) and the Electronic Filing System (EFS).


PAIR (<http://pair.uspto.gov>) provides customers direct secure access to their own patent application status information, as well as to general patent information publicly available.

EFS allows customers to electronically file patent application documents securely via the Internet. EFS is a system for submitting new utility patent applications and pre-grant

publication submissions in electronic publication-ready form. EFS includes software to help customers prepare submissions in extensible Markup Language (XML) format and to assemble the various parts of the application as an electronic submission package. EFS also allows the submission of Computer Readable Format (CRF) sequence listings for pending biotechnology patent applications, which were filed in paper form.



B.P.Y.
03 July 2006



BRIAN P. YENKE
PRIMARY EXAMINER